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GORBACHEV PROPOSES TEST BAN SUMMIT IN EUROPE

29 Mar Speech

PM301145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] Good evening, dear comrades.

At tonight's meeting I would like to share my views with you on the situation that has formed around the Soviet Union's moratorium on nuclear tests.

Several days ago the United States staged yet another nuclear explosion. It is clear to all of us that its timing was by no means accidental. The blast was staged on the eve of the ending of the Soviet Union's unilaterally declared moratorium. It was learned yesterday that in the next few days -- in the near future -- the United States intends to set off yet another nuclear device.

Soviet people, just as people of good will in all countries, are incensed by these actions of the United States. They write about this in their letters to the party's Central Committee and request that an assessment be made of the existing situation. They ask how should all this be understood? What conclusions should be drawn from this? Why did the United States take such a step? How does our country's leadership intend to act in these conditions?

We consider it our duty to respond to these messages. And this, in effect, is the reason for our meeting tonight.

I must tell you frankly that we regard the present actions of the American Administration, which is continuing nuclear tests despite pressing demands of the peoples, as a pointed challange to the Soviet Union, and not only to it but also to the whole world, to all peoples, including to its own people as well.

The question of stopping nuclear tests has acquired tremendous importance in conditions when whole mountains of inflammable nuclear material have been stockpiled in the world. And this is understandable.

First, the ending of nuclear tests is the most realistic way of achieving an end to the arms race. Without such tests it is impossible either to perfect or to develop [sozdarat] new types of nuclear arms. In short, it together with the United States and other nuclear powers we were to reach an accord on ending nuclear explosions this would make it possible to get the entire process of nuclear disarmament out of deadlock.

Furthermore, the continued testing inflicts a tremendous and, perhaps, not yet fully studied harm to nature, to that natural environment in which we all live. Do we not feel obliged to show concern for our own home? And not only for ourselves but also for our children and grandchildren.

And finally, in this difficult endeavor there is no need to start so speak from scratch. A definite road has already been traversed and joint experience acquired: What I mean is that tests in the atmosphere, in the water, and on land have not been conducted for many years. Nor have there been explosions in outer space.

It is after duly considering exactly these circumstances and on thoroughly weighing all the pros and cons that 8 months ago, on the 40th anniversary of the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviet Union came up with an initiative of extraordinary importance -- an end to all nuclear explosions both for military and peaceful purposes, and a call on the United States of America and other nuclear states to follow its example -- to start to move along the road of nuclear disarmament.

I have already had opportunity to say that in conditions of the unabating tension in the international situation this was not a simple decision for us to make. If you like, this step required both an awareness of the responsibility resting on the governments of nuclear powers and the necessary political will. In acting as it did the Soviet leadership had the mandate of its people, who know the price of peace and sincerely strive for its preservation and consolidation, for cooperation with all peoples.

Acting in this way, we proceeded from the deep conviction that the world in its development has entered such a stage which calls for new approaches to international security matters. Nowadays, in the nuclear and space era, one cannot think in the categories of the past. Everyone should ultimately come to realize that everything has radically changed. The question now concerns not only the preservation of peace but mankind's survival as well.

These are the motives for our decision to announce the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests.

The good initiatives of the Soviet Union -- I am immensely pleased to say this -- has been regarded with understanding and widely endorsed in the world. Our action has been highly appreciated by the working people of all countries: Communists and Social Democrats, liberals and conservatives, Christians and Moslems, a multitude of public organizations, prominent political figures, scientists and cultural figures, and millions of ordinary people.

How did the other side conduct itself? I mean the U.S. Administration.

In words, it stands for the elimination of nuclear weapons. A good deal of statements on that score have been made. But in fact, a gap between words and practical policy exists. The U.S. Government continued to conduct nuclear tests despite the Soviet Union's call and example, despite persistent demands by the American people and by the peoples of the whole world.

We set certain hopes on the Geneva meeting with the President of the United States of America and expected to reach agreement with him on this matter as well. As you remember, reassuring statements were made there from both sides and jointly: that nuclear war is unacceptable, that such a war cannot be won, that the sides would not seek nuclear superiority.

The results of the Geneva meeting prompted us to take yet another good-will step: to extend the moratorium until 31 March of this year. We confirmed thereby in actual fact the responsible attitude toward the dialogue between the leaders of the two powers and hoped, of course, for steps in reply by the U.S. Administration.

I think you will agree that our statement of 15 January this year which set out a concrete and realistic program for the elimination of nuclear arms -- is yet another illustration of our real intentions -- to put an end to nuclear confrontation. When taking this step, our least thought was how to gain extra propaganda "points," as journalists say in such cases, to outsmart or outperform the other side. We consider such an approach to the burning problem of contemporary politics unacceptable. Our actions were motivated by our responsibility both to the Soviet people and to the other peoples, the responsibility for the removal of the nuclear threat and for the preservation and strengthening of peace.

In February the leaders of six nonaligned states, expressing the dominant sentiments in world public opinion, urged the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States to refrain from nuclear explosions until a new Soviet-American meeting. We consented to this.

It seemed natural on the part of the U.S. Administration to support the Soviet Union's initiative with practical actions and to respond to the expectations of the peoples, to take precise actions to confirm its own statements made in Geneva. But that did not happen.

Everything shows that the U.S. ruling group has placed the narrow selfish interests of the military-industrial circles above the interests of the whole of mankind and its own people. The manner in which this is done is also quite important: pointedly, arrogantly, and with disregard for the opinion of the world community. There is neither a sense of realism nor of responsibility.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the U.S. ruling circles are continuing to emphasize pursuing a militaristic line and are banking on force so as to dictate their will to other countries and peoples. In process, statements are made for everybody to hear that it is precisely this way that they will also influence the Soviet Union's policy.

What can be said about that? These are attempts using unsuitable [negodnyy] means. Nobody has ever succeeded in using power politics methods against our state, while now they are simply ridiculous. The peoples of other countries are also ever more vigorously rejecting the policy of diktat in international relations, which is already out of date.

The Soviet political leadership is now faced with the far from simple question of how to react to such behavior by the United States.

Our stand is clear. We believe that the world has now entered a period of crucial decisions. Yes, precisely a period of responsible decisions. We will not deviate from the policy of preserving and strengthening peace, which was most definitely confirmed by the 27th Congress of the CPSU. Fulfilling the wish of the Soviet people, the Soviet state will further build up efforts to ensure universal security. We will do that in interaction with all countries and their peoples.

As to our unilateral moratorium, I can say that it is, as before, in effect until 31 March 1986. But even after that date, as it was announced, we will not conduct nuclear explosions, if the United States acts likewise. We are again giving the U.S. Administration a chance to make a responsible decision -- to end nuclear explosions.

Failing that, the Soviet Union will resume testing. This must be absolutely clear. We regret it, but we will be forced to do so, since we cannot forego our own security and that of our allies. I am saying all this, so that there should be no reticence on that issue.

At the same time I stress again and again that our main intention is to stop the nuclear weapons race. The simplest, most explicit, and effective step in that direction would be to end nuclear explosions.

We have proposed that talks be started without delay on a total ban on nuclear weapons testing, including verification [kontrol] issues. All variants are acceptable to the Soviet Union -- bilateral Soviet-American talks, tripartite talks with the participation of Britain, and multilateral ones within the framework of the Geneva disarmament conference.

Now we have drawn the conclusion that the situation requires immediate action. It is not yet too late to halt the nuclear arms race. The first major stride in that direction is needed. An end to nuclear testing by all, first of all by the Soviet Union and the United States as well as by the other nuclear powers, could be such a step. We attach tremendous significance to carrying out this task which concerns the destiny of all peoples.

I am ready to meet President Reagan in the nearest future in London or Rome, or in any other European capital that will agree to receive us, in order to reach agreement on this question. And I do not see any insurmountable obstacles to this -- political, technical, or any other. What is needed is the necessary political will and understanding of our mutual responsibility. We propose to meet, exchange views on this crucial problem, and issue instructions to draft an appropriate agreement.

We hope that this proposal of the Soviet Union will be duly appraised and correctly understood by the President of the United States of America, by the governments of the countries of Europe and Asia, Africa and Latin America, of the whole world.

Time is not waiting. On behalf of the Soviet people we call on the American people and their government, on the peoples and governments of all countries to vigorously take practical actions to enable the ban on nuclear explosions to become a fact, an immutable norm of inter-state relations.

Mankind is standing on a line that requires the maximum of responsibility. The aftermath of the nuclear arms race can become dangerously unpredictable. We must act in concert. This applies to each and all. This is what I wanted to tell you, dear comrades, at our meeting tonight.

Good-bye.

U.S. To Study Proposals

LD292023 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2005 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, 29 Mar (TASS) -- Petroski, official spokesman for the White House, stated in Santa Barbara (California), where President Reagan is resting, that the administration will refrain from any reaction to the speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for the time being.

In the words of the White House spokesman, an official statement will be made after the Soviet Union's proposals have been studied by the administration.

U.S. To Continue Tests

LD300322 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0255 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, 30 Mar (TASS) -- Throwing down a challenge to world public opinion, the Reagan administration has announced its intention to continue testing. A special statement, read out in Santa Barbara on behalf of the President by a White House spokesman, stresses that the U.S. stance regarding a moratorium on nuclear tests "has not changed." As the document asserts, halting nuclear explosions is not in the interests of the United States.

The overwhelming majority of the U.S. population and the peoples of other countries demand a halt to nuclear testing as the first real step on the path to nuclear disdisarmament.

Adelman Confirms Response

LD290625 Moscow TASS in English 0617 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 29 TASS -- Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has said that the United States will go on testing nuclear weapons.

Speaking in an ASSOCIATED PRESS interview, he claimed that the tests were needed "to make sure that the safety and reliability of nuclear weapons is as high as we can make them".

The contention that nuclear testing is needed to maintain the "reliability" of the U.S. nuclear potential is among Washington's familiar propaganda ploys meant to cover up its unwillingness to discontinue nuclear blasts.

U.S. Attitude 'Unconstructive'

LD300930 Moscow TASS in English 0924 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Washington March 30 TASS -- The speech by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on Soviet television has become the major news in the programmes of U.S. television networks. In their newscasts the ABC, NBC, CNN and other leading television networks amply cited the text of the speech and stressed its immense importance.

As for the U.S. Administration, it took up an unconstructive stand towards the Soviet initiatives again. A White House spokesman made a statement in which he reiterated that the U.S. stance towards the moratorium on nuclear tests had not changed. He alleged that this measure was not in the interests of the security of the United States and its allies.

This approach came under fire from Paul Warnke, a well-known U.S. public figure, former head of the U.S. delegation at the Strategic Armaments Limitation Talks. Warnke said that he believed the administration was committing a very grave error. In his opinion, the moves to further build up nuclear arms led to undermining U.S. security.

Response to Gorbachev Reviewed

LD301349 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS -- The Soviet Union has once against appealed to the American people and their government, to the peoples and governments of all countries to apply vigorous, practical actions so that the ban on nuclear explosions become a fact, an immutable norm of interstate relations. Such is the principal message of press, radio televison and wire-service comments around the world on Mikhail Gorbachev's televised speech.

The USSR reaffirms its determination to follow the course towards preserving peace, conformed with full certainty by the 27th CPSU Congress. In exercising the will of the Soviet people, the Soviet state will continue building up efforts with a view to ensuring universal security. The Soviet Union will do that jointly with all countries and their peoples.

The mass media in socialist countries give the full text of the Soviet leader's statement. "Stopping the nuclear arms race is the Soviet Union's chief intention," stresses the Bulgarian newspaper RABOTNICHESKO DELO.

The Soviet leader expressed his readiness to meet U.S. President Reagan in any European city at any time for talks on a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons tests, observed a commentator of the American NBC television network. Gorbachev said he saw no insurmountable obstacles to that -- political, technical, or any other, the commentator pointed out.

The American Administration has hastily rejected the latest Soviet peace initiative. As to the nuclear test moratorium, says the White House statement, "The U.S. position has not changed." The White House announced that "a moderate level of nuclear testing is needed to ensure the continue reliability, safety and effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent."

White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan said in Santa Barbara, California, that the administration was not going to cancel the nuclear test to be set off in Nevada in mid-April. American observers pointed out in this connection that the Pentagon needed nuclear explosions for continuing work on first-strike weapons -- Midgetman and MX missiles -- and implementing the "star wars" programme directed at gaining military superiority.

The statement rejects the suggestion for an early summit meeting in Europe to conclude an agreement banning nuclear tests on the pretext that "meetings at the highest level should deal with the entire range of important issues between our two countries."

The White House's negative response has run into criticism on the part of prominent political and public figures in the United States. Paul Warnke, former chief American negotiator at Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, described the administration's response as a grave mistake. In his view, the further buildup of nuclear armaments was undermining the United States' security.

The White House statement cannot be regarded as a straight answer to the proposal involving the major question of our time. Nations all over the world demand that the ban on nuclear explosions become a fact, an immutable form of interstate relations.

THE NEW YORK TIMES quotes Gorbachev as saying that the actions by the American Administration, which is continuing nuclear tests despite pressing demands of the peoples, are regarded in the USSR as a pointed challenge to the Soviet Union, and not only to it but also to the whole world, to all peoples, including to its own people as well. Unless the United States responded to the Soviet Union's appeal, said a commentator of the American ABC television network, the USSR would have to resume its nuclear testing that was suspended in August last year. The USSR would have to do that for it could not forego its own security and that of its allies.

There is no task more important than invigorating the campaign for the termination of any nuclear blasts, eliminating nuclear weapons and all other types of weapons of mass annihilation, and preventing the militarization of outer space. This has been underlined by the participants in a world peace forum in the Austrian city of Graz. They stressed the importance of the peace initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union, noting that these initiatives were meeting approval and support of the world public.

REUTER news agency stressed that Gorbachev, while giving a fresh impetus to the Soviet campaign for the prohibition of nuclear testing, urged Reagan to meet as soon as possible to discuss the moratorium issue. According to Western diplomats, the proposal would generate political pressure on the Reagan administration in favour of displaying a readiness for disarmament.

The Soviet Union thrice extended its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, recalled a commentator of the Japanese NHK Radio and Television Corp., assessing Gorbachev's speech as yet another attempt to influence the United States and to show that Moscow was doing its utmost to achieve the termination of nuclear testing. The Soviet Union was pressing the U.S. Administration to adopt a responsible political decision on ending nuclear blasts, stressed the Japanese news agency KYODO TSUSHIN. The Soviet Union accused Washington, it said, of placing the selfish interests of the military-industrial circles above the interests of all of mankind.

CEMA SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETS

LD280636 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2004 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] A regular session of the CEMA Committee for Scientific-Technical Cooperation took place in Moscow on 26-27 March. Representatives of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, the Republic of Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia took part in the session. The committee focused its attention on questions connected with implementing the CEMA member-states comprehensive program of scientific and technical progress through the year 2000; perfecting the work of the committee; implementing the decisions of the 41st Extraordinary CEMA session and the appropriate decisions of the council's executive committee, and mapping out specific measures for their implementation. The session took place in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding, and constructive comradely cooperation.

Poland's Szalajda Comments

LD281452 Warsaw PAP in English 0008 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 27: The 34th session of the Scientific-Technical Cooperation Committee of the CEMA wound up in Moscow today.

The Polish delegation was headed by Vice Premier Zbigniew Szalajda who is chairman of the government committee for science and technological progress.

In a statement for PAP correspondent, Vice Premier Zbigniew Szalajda stated that: "The debates of the committee were very much matter-of-fact. Out of five key directions which are discussed in the comprehensive programme, at the current meeting we discussed and signed two very important general agreements.

"The first, in the field of biotechnology, encompassing the whole food bloc, health and natural environmental protection and the second, not less important, on new technologies and materials. This field will also decide about the further development of construction, material savings, etc."

The vice premier went on to say:

"During the meeting important decisions concerning the beginning of work on the comprehensive system of scientific-technological information were also reached.

"Besides that many organizational matters -- difficult issues and sometimes even controversial ones -- were discussed. Their solution should however secure the efficient realization of the whole comprehensive programme.

"It is worth underscoring that the date lines are very stretched. In the first half of this year all agreements between direct executors of the programme -- enterprises, scientific-research institutions, etc -- should be put into detail."

"In other words, the whole phase of planning work should be finished in the first half of this year," stated Zbigniew Szalajda.

KORIONOV REVIEWS WEEK'S WORLD EVENTS

PM301750 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[Vitaliy Korionov "International Review"]

[Text] Main Direction

On the front page of today's issue of PRAVDA you, Comrade Readers, have read the address on Soviet Television by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. It is devoted to a question which has assumed tremendous significance in the present situation -- the ending of nuclear tests. It is still possible to halt the nuclear arms race. Urgent actions are needed. This is precisly what the Soviet Union is insistently calling for.

What we have is yet another convincing piece of evidence of how the CPSU Central Committee is fulfilling the assignment given to it by the 27th congress -- to strive, consistently, persistently, and according to plan, to achieve the solution of the problems of international security by orienting the Soviet Union's foreign policy toward unswerving pursuit of a course of peaceful coexistence: toward firmness in upholding our principles and positions; toward tactical flexibility; and toward readiness for mutually acceptable compromises; and an orientation toward dialogue and mutual understanding.

"The contemporary world," M.S. Gorbachev said in his Kremlin speech on 26 March, "and we do not tire of repeating this, is complex and multifaceted. Today the world community comprises very disparate countries. Each of them has its own past, its own traditions, its own national values, and its own specific features. But they all uphold sovereignty and legitimately want to make their own contribution to world politics. A realistic course cannot be pursued if this fundamental distinctive feature of the contemporary world is not taken into account. I want to emphasize that a realization of this and a respectful attitude toward the interests of other states constitute the alpha and omega of the Soviet Union's foreign policy."

The 27th CPSU Congress proposed the creation of an all-embracing system of international security and the practical implementation of this proposal would have a particularly salutary effect on the normalization of the situation in a world so full of contradictions. The year 1986, which was proclaimed International Year of Peace by the United Nations, could become the 1st year of the creation of such a security system and each subsequent year would become a milestone on the path toward the total liberation of mankind from nuclear weapons.

The normalization of the situation on the world's ocean and sea-lanes could play a major role in this process. Imperialism has made a practice of the notorious "gunboat diplomacy." These days, such "diplomacy" carried out with the aid of aircraft carriers and hundreds of carrier-based aircraft equipped with the latest weapons systems is in fact being transformed into state terrorism and ends up as military calamities for the peoples. Graphic evidence of this is the present situation in the Mediterranean Sea over which now lies the grim shadow of the huge bulk of American warships which are ready to bring death.

But the Mediterranean Sea which was the cradle of many civilizations merits an incomparably better fate. The proposals repeatedly made by the Soviet Union concerning the extension to this region of coordinated measures of trust, the reduction of armed forces, the withdrawal from the Mediterranean of ships carrying nuclear weapons, and other similar steps are aimed precisely at this. However, the USSR's proposals are coming up against the dogged resistence of those who are seeking to transform the Mediterranean Sea into an "internal sea" of NATO in which the U.S. 6th Fleet would hold sway without restriction.

This is why the Soviet Union's new initiative formulated in M.S. Gorbachev's speech at a dinner in honor of the visit to the USSR by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party, was greeted everywhere with such attention.

In principle there is no need for the Soviet Union to have its Navy in the Mediterranean Sea on a permanent basis. If the United States, located thousands of miles from the Mediterranean were to remove its fleet, the Soviet Union would do this at the same time. We are prepared to enter into talks on this issue without delay. At the first stage of such negotiations, in the USSR's opinion, no restructions would be introduced on the naval activity and naval armaments of littoral Mediterranean states. But subsequent steps to strengthen security in this region could be defined, taking into account the Soviet proposals contained in the 15 January statement.

The summit-level Soviet-Algerian talks which took place in Moscow showed that the Soviet Union is strengthening its solidarity with the forces of national and social liberation and is firmly following the line of close cooperation with countries of a socialist orientation, with revolutionary-democratic parties, and with the Nonaligned Movement. The Soviet-Algerian talks which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding and confirmed the closeness or coincidence of the stances of the two sides, were a substantial contribution to the cause of strengthening world peace.

Attempt Against Peace

The events of recent days have confirmed most obviously that certain circles in Washington are taking dangerous steps which are deliberately aimed at creating new "hotspots" on the planet and at tying even tighter knots in interstate relations.

U.S. warships carried out a provocative act for intelligence purposes in Soviet territorial waters off the shores of the Crimea; an ostentatious nuclear explosion was carried out in Nevada; U.S. Armed Forces launched military operations off the coast of Libya; and not limiting itself to the violently hostile propaganda campaign against Nicaragua, the White House in essence strove to kindle a military conflagaration in this region too.

The administration is not only speeding up the implementation of the "star wars" program in the United States itself, but is also intensifying the pressure on its partners in an attempt to place the physical and intellectual potential of the FRG, Britain, Japan, and Italy at the service of its militarist scheme. At the same time, Washington is increasingly unceremoniously raising its hand against the Soviet-U.S. 1972 ABM Treaty and other international agreements.

All these are not separate, isolated acts but components of a deliberate course. Two main directions can be traced particularly clearly in its implementation. First, the attempt to change the international climate and to ensure that the "spirit of Geneva" which engendered hopes throughout the world, including in the United States, might evaporate as soon as possible which would give the forces of militarism the opportunity to open even wider the floodgates of the arms race. Second, the desire by any route, including the use of arms, to impose on countries and peoples which have chosen an independent path of development a policy which suits Washington and to force them to bow to U.S. diktat.

What are the reasons for the intensification of Washington's aggressiveness? One thinks that the main reason lies in the desire of the present ruling elite in Washington to regain at any price the positions lost by imperialism and to implement a policy of social revenge. (F. Knelman) a professor at Montreal University, states in his book "Reagan, God, and the Bomb": "The activity of this administration, which has at its disposal the instruments for destroying the 20th and even the 21st centuries, is directed by people who think in terms of the 19th century."

The ruling circles of the United States clearly have no constructive response to the program of peace and social progress put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress. This is why Washington continues to cling so doggedly to the policy of yesteryear. Of course, the politicians there realize that it is today no longer possible to tilt openly at negotiations between states. They therefore pretend that they are also in favor of negotiations but only those in which the United States might operate from a position of military superiority. The military might of the United States, the head of the U.S. Administration reiterates, is "America's trumpcard."

Such a stance is nurtured not only by anticommunist prejudices which are deeply rooted among the inhabitants of the White House. No small role is played here too by the fact that ultra-right-wing circles in the United States were roused to fury by the "concessions" which, in their opinion, the President made at the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Geneva last November. And these circles are exerting ever intensifying pressure on the President, acting in accordance with the motto: "To the right, more to the right!"

Accords have difficulty fitting into the framework of such a policy. Any constructive proposal of ours is turned down in the U.S. capital either straightaway or else by heaping up "conditions" and "reservations." Let us recall: How many years has Washington given assurances that it is in favor of agreements on arms reduction and, they say, the whole point is that the USSR is opposed to verification [kontrol]. We only had to declare that the USSR is open to verification [kontrol] for those gentlemen to lose all interest in verification [kontrol].

Or this: Washington does not stint on rhetoric in an attempt to give an assurance that the administration is seeking to "make nuclear weapons obsolete and impotent." And so the USSR takes steps which indeed lead to this goal. But, THE WASHINGTON POST attests, this immediately caused indignation in Washington where the USSR's stance was declared to be a far-fetched problem. And in response a hasty nuclear explosion in Nevada followed.

The USSR's moratorium of many months demonstrated a high degree of responsibility for the fate of peace, but by its Nevada explosion, the U.S. Administration showed once again that it lacks such responsibility; the USSR is doing everything in its power to implement the idea of a nuclear-free world, but the United States is blowing up this very idea -- those are the real facts. They cannot be concealed.

However, the powers that be in the United States do not care for the truth. In attempts to justify their aggressive actions they even bring into play allegations about an intrusion into Honduras by Nicaraguan troops. Using this pretext, the White House pushed through the Senate a decision on the allocation of $100 million for counter-revolutionary gangs of the U.S. mercenaries.

Such are Washington's morals. Describing the atmosphere that prevails there, the U.S. journalist A. Lewis wrote on 24 March: "There has not been such a malicious atmosphere in our country for many years like that which Washington has experienced in the period preceding the House vote on aid for the 'contras'... Our President is simply obsessed with this topic. He is pursuing his own aims without heed for common sense, humanity, or security."

No to Adventurism

U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz, who has toured countries of NATO's southern flank, declared: Countries that are friendly toward the United States must "give a standing ovation" to U.S. actions against Libya. In fact, Washington is hearing, instead of applause, increasingly vehement condemnation of its aggressive actions.

Angry protests by the peoples against the nuclear explosion in Nevada and against the brigandage of the Pentagon military in the Gulf of Sidra are merging into one mighty stream.

Soviet workers angrily denounce the actions of the U.S. militarists at protest rallies which are being held in various regions of our country.

The militarist course of the U.S. Administration is encountering a strengthening rebuff in the states of the nonsocialist world too, including in the United States itself. The following fact is symbolic in its way: The day after the nuclear explosion in Nevada, the third largest U.S. city -- Chicago -- declared itself to be a nuclear weapon-free zone. The number of such cities in the United States is already approaching 110.

In parallel, there is growing concern and indignation at the Pentagon's piratical actions against sovereign Libya. The alarm is being sounded not just by peace-loving progressive public organizations and movements. In one form or another the U.S. brigandage in Libyan waters has been condemned by the governments of many countries, inlcuding certain NATO members. Arab states declared solidarity with Libya and the Non-aligned Movement condemned the provocative U.S. action. Washington found itself in a situation reminiscent of isolation. Under these conditions, the Pentagon announced an early end to the U.S. Navy's maneuvers off the shores of Libya.

Opposition to the adventurous course of the "war party" across the ocean assumes diverse forms. New sections of the U.S. population are beginning to acquire a better awareness of the real essence of the "star wars" program. The growth of opposition to this venture among scientists is characteristic. THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER recently cited data attesting to the fact that more than 3,100 professors, including 55 percent of the professors and instructors in the physics faculties of 20 leading universities of the country, and also more than 2,100 postgraduate students and scientific workers have already pledged not to participate in the implementation of "star wars" plans. Among those who have set down their signatures are 14 Nobel prize winners.

The administration's course toward overthrowing the legitimate government of Nicaragua by violent means is encountering substantial resistance in the country, including in the Congress. A public opinion poll recently conducted in the country has yielded some curious results: 60 percent of those polled approved of the fact that the majority of members of the House of Representatives of the Congress did not submit to pressure from the White House on the question of allocating an injection of $100 million for the killers from the "contra" gangs who are suffering defeat.

In conclusion, here is yet another characteristic episode that has occurred during the past week. The Government of Brazil has protested to Washington over a speech by the head of the White House in which it was alleged that "Brazilian terrorists" are being trained in Nicaragua for action against the legitimate Government of Brazil. The Washington purveyors of disinformation who have been seized by the arm were forced to try to wriggle out of it: They began to assert that it was a question of the presence in Nicaragua of certain "Brazilian radicals." After this, the Brazilian newspapers wrote ironically that by "Brazilian radicals" Washington meant "Brazilian doctors who are treating Nicaraguans, or students helping the Nicaraguan peasants harvest coffee." The capital's newspaper JORNAL DE BRASILIA writes: The United States is inventing the most absurd arguments in order to present Nicaragua as a lethal threat to its security. The U.S. President thinks that he has the right to be the policeman of Latin America, and he wants to turn the continent once again into the U.S. backyard. The Latin American peoples, however the newspaper observes, resolutely reject this cynical and brazen policy.

BOGACHEV OPTIMISTIC ON UN'S YEAR OF PEACE

LD290346 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Vladimir Bogachev commentary from the "Outlook" program]

[Excerpts] The United Nations has proclaimed this year an International Year of Peace. In this connection, the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a message to the United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Our news analyst Vladimir Bogachev comments. Here is what he writes:

The motto of the year is Peace and a Future for Humanity. People in the Soviet Union are hoping for tangible practical steps to be taken this year to rid present and future generations of the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. The Soviet Union recently advanced a comprehensive program of nuclear disarmament.

This year provides a chance to agree on a comprehensive nuclear test ban. The Soviet Union has gone a long way to promote such an accord. It extended its nuclear moratorium twice and is ready to accept any measures to verify compliance with a test ban in the Soviet Union and in the United States. The continuing blasts in Nevada seem to be the only roadblock. This year could also produce an agreement to scrap, on a mutual basis, Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe. Here too the Soviet Union has done everything for an agreement to be reached. It has unilaterally reduced the number of its missiles, suggested effective verification, and displayed a readiness to resolve the issue without any linkages. And here too the Western response evokes nothing but apprehension. For example, United States cruise missiles in Federal Germany are this month to be placed on operational duty. This year too could be used to set up a structure for a cooperation in preventing an arms race in space and in using space exclusively for peaceful purposes. But NATO seems to be in a rush to set up a totally different sort of structure whose one pillar is an agreement on collaborating on the "star wars" program signed by the United States with Federal Germany the other day.

In the light of all this does humanity stand a chance of reaching peace, security, and disarmament? The Soviet Union's answer is in the affirmative. The International Year of Peace should go down in history as one laying the foundations for a comprehensive system of international security. Each subsequent year until the end of the century should become a landmark in ridding humanity of all nuclear weapons.

FURTHER REPORTS ON U.S. ACTIONS AGAINST LIBYA

Security Council Condemnation

LD282221 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 28 Mar 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Vsevolod Shishkovskiy]

[Text] Washington's aggressive actions against Libya have been roundly condemned by the participants in an emergency session of the UN Security Council in New York. Representatives of different countries view them as a provocation planned in advance, which threatens peace and security in the southern Mediterranean. This was stated, in particular, by representatives of Algeria, Syria, Yugoslavia, Iran, and India. These acts of banditry and international terrorism, they said, are a challenge to the whole of world public opinion and a flouting of generally recognized civilized relations.

The Soviet Union submitted for the consideration of the Security Council a draft resolution proposing that the U.S. armed aggression against Libya be resolutely condemned. The document expresses a demand for the immediate halting of all hostile actions against that soverieign state, and the withdrawal of the U.S. Armed Forces from the region without delay.

Having encountered sharp protests throughout the world, Washington was forced to declare a halt to its maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra. The threat of new armed action against Libya remains, however. As has been stated by a representative of the U.S. Defense Department, American warships will not leave the Mediterranean. This was also confirmed by Weinberger, the secretary of defense, who again alleged that Libya has threatened the United States.

We shall return to the shores of Libya at any time, he said, when required, or when we consider it opportune or necessary.

Libyan Envoy Appreciates Support

LD282035 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] New York March 28 TASS -- Mohamed al-Zarruq Rajab, charge d'affaires ad interim of the permanent mission of Libya at the U.N., has stated that Libya highly appreciates and supports new Soviet initiatives on the Mediterranean aimed at turning that region into a zone of stable peace and cooperation. He addressed the Security Council which is discussing the situation in the southern Mediterranean. Mohamed al-Zarruq Rajab said that Libya urged all the countries of the Mediterranean region to actively support those initiatives.

The Libyan representative stressed that the U.S. policy provoked regional conflicts and threatened international peace and security, that it was directed against independent nations.

Yuriy Dubinin, USSR ambassador to the U.N., who spoke at a press conference at its headquarters pointed out that the previous Soviet proposals aimed at achieving the objectives of peace and cooperation in the Mediterranean remained in force. At the same time, the USSR is ready to go further.

If the U.S. situated thousands of miles from that region withdrew its fleet from there, the Soviet Union would do the same, for it is ready to immediately start talks on this problem.

The Soviet representative emphasized that further steps aimed at the consolidation of security in the Mediterranean could be mapped out with due account for the Soviet proposals expressed in the statement of January 15, 1986, on the elimination of mass destruction weapons.

Conflict 'No Accident'

LD282208 Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Mikhail Glebov commentary]

[Text] The all-embracing system of international security proposed by the Soviet Union provides, among other things, for a peaceful settlement of conflicts and renunciation of the use of force or threats to use force.

The events in the southern Mediterranean have shown once again how topical that problem is. The provocative war games of the 6th U.S. Fleet off Libya's shores were turned into an armed conflict during which American warplanes delivered a strike at Libya. The American Administration hurriedly declared the conflict to be of an accidental nature. It presents the Americans as almost victims of the conflict and talks about international maritime rights. But one may ask, how in the first place did American naval ships find themselves of the Libyan coast, thousands of kilometers from the United States? Mikhail Glebov of our staff writes the following:

No, the conflict was no accident, and the Americans came to the Gulf of Sidra not in support of the conception of international maritime rights. The administration had prepared the escalation of the conflict a long time ago and it did not hide these preparations. The American ABC television company, citing official sources, reported that President Reagan had approved this tough action plan against Libya following the terrorist acts in the Vienna and Rome airports. Indeed the anti-Libyan campaign launched a long time ago was based precisely on accusing Libya on international terrorism. But the thing is that the American accusation is a lie from beginning to end.

Let us recall the events of recent months. The present anti-Libyan campaign of the Reagan administration began in December after terrorist acts had been perpetrated at the airports in Rome and Vienna. The Reagan administration accused Libya of masterminding these acts. American spokesmen promised to supply irrefutable evidence but failed to do that. The United States State Department has gone out of its way to advertise the book "Libya Under Al-Qadhdhafi" which supposedly supplied the missing evidence.

The BBC has said, however, that the book contains nothing that is new. The United States has failed to supply any photographs or facts. From the very beginning, U.S. accusations clearly appeared to be figments of the imagination. In its official letter to the United Nations Security Council Libya condemned the acts of terrorism and emphasized that it had nothing to do with them whatsoever. The Libyan Government said that it is prepared to cooperate with other nations in combatting terrorism and that it had already begun to cooperate with Austria in that.

The minister of the interior of Austria, where the terrorist action was perpetrated, said that he had no evidence linking Libya to that action. He also said that the terrorists seized by the police said that they had never been to Libya and that they had never been trained there. The list of examples of that kind goes on and on, but the picture is clear as it is: The only conclusion one can draw is that the Americans have been deceived by their own government. The true state of affairs was concealed from them and primitive tricks were employed to impose on them a fabricated version of the course of events. All this is done to cover up the true nature of United States policy towards Libya.

The objective of that policy, proclaimed a long time ago, is to topple the Libyan Government.

After the Libyan revolution the Americans lost military facilities there and the control of Libyan oil. That was when the United States began drawing up scenarios for wiping out the recalcitrant government and replacing it by a client regime. Back in 1981 the American INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER magazine carried a report about plans by the CIA to assassinate Al-Qadhdhafi. In this way real terrorism evaluated by the United States Administration to government policy level has become apparent in spite of the allegations about the so-called Libyan terrorism.

U.S. 'Badly Mistaken'

LD282318 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Leonid Rassadin report from Tripoli; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Here in Tripoli, once again you realize just how badly mistaken the Washington administration was in hoping to cause panic among the Libyans, to intimidate them, to compel this Arab state by brute force to give up its independent, anti-imperialist course. Studies in the schools and in other educational establishments were not interrupted for a single day. Building work continues at full swing. As always, there are a lot of merchant ships in the port. Nevertheless, even outwardly there is much in Tripoli these days that reminds one of the alarming events. The piractical action by the U.S. brass-hats are described here as clear confirmation of the policy of state terrorism that is being carried out by the Washington administration against dozens of states in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The Libyans are filled with resolve to defend the independence of their homeland and to move further along the path of progressive reform that they have chosen.

Bogachev Commentary

LD281959 Moscow TASS in English 1854 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev. As a result of the aggressive actions by the United States and its allies, the Mediterranean area has been turned of late into one of troubled areas of the globe. The piratic attack of Israeli planes on Tunisian territory, the interception of an Egyptian airliner by U.S. warplanes over the Mediterranean, the United States' provocations against Libya and finally, the United States' "punitive" operation against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, have aggravated the situation in the region to the utmost.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet equipped with nuclear missile weapons is the main source of tension in the Mediterranean. Washington gives assistance to the Israeli militarists who stage aggressive actions against countries.

The U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean also threatens the security of the Soviet Union and its allies and friends. This is why the Soviet Union has to keep its ships permanently in the Mediterranean. There are no other reasons for the stay of Soviet naval ships in the Mediterranean Sea.

Guiding itself by the concept of a comprehensive system of international security set out at the 27th CPSU Congress, seeking to ease tension in the vast Mediterranean region, the Soviet Union suggested that talks be started without delay on simultaneous withdrawal of the U.S. and Soviet fleets from the Mediterranean.

According to the Soviet proposal, no restrictions on the naval activity and naval armaments of littoral Meditteranean states be imposed at the first stage.

Further measures for the consolidation of security in the area could be determined with taking into account the Soviet proposals contained in the statement of January 15 of this year on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Washington has rejected the Soviet proposal hastily advancing ludicrous arguments in an effort to justify its stand. Spokesman for the White House Edward Djerejian told newsmen that withdrawal of Soviet and U.S. naval ships from the Mediterranean would, allegedly, put the United States at a disadvantage, since the Soviet Union's territory is adjacent to the Mediterranean while the United States is far away. Then going by the logic of the representative of the White House, stationing of similar Soviet and U.S. naval ships closer to the United States of America, say in the Hudson Bay or the Gulf of California would suit the United States interests.

It is not the first time over the past five years that Washington rejects proposals aimed at the lowering of the level of military confrontation, at the normalisation of the international situation. Over the same period, the present U.S. Administration has not taken a single step that could be assessed as a gesture of U.S. goodwill in the sphere of disarmament.

As if mocking the common sense of journalists, the self-same Djerejian said that dispatching Soviet observers to Nevada to observe U.S. nuclear explosions would be the best contributing toward arresting the nuclear arms race. There is, indeed, no limit to the hypocricy of Washington officials.

Maneuvers Termed 'Piracy'

LD301846 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Mar 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by IZVESTIYA commentator Stanislaw Kondrashov]

[Text] The armed conflict between the United States and Libya, which began on Monday, 24 March, was one of the past week's most poignant events. The fanning up of tension which the Americans have recently been busying themselves with in this or that place, has, one can say, reached its logical conclusion in the Gulf of Sidra, where, using Harpoon missiles, the Americans attacked, sunk, or damaged severan Libyan vessels, moreover, not just warships, but also civilian craft, according to reports from Tripoli. According to U.S. reports, HARM missiles damaged an anti-aircraft defense missile complex near the town of Surt on the Libyan coast.

At a time when Americans encroached on the sovereignty of one Mediterranean Arab country, the president of another Mediterranean Arab country conducted talks with the Soviet leadership in a friendly atmosphere. I have in mind Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to Moscow. Speaking during a dinner in the Algerian guest's honor, Comrade Gorbachev said that what had taken place off the Libyan coastline laid bare the imperial and piratical nature of the U.S. neoglobalist policies. He said: We are not talking of an incident which has arisen all of a sudden, but of a type of punitive operation, preplanned, and thought out in advance. Such policies, he emphasized, provoke regional conflicts. They do that in order to establish U.S. influence in various regions of the world with the aid of a big fist.

The current U.S. Administration's conflict with Libya, which refuses to dance to Washington's tune, is of long duration. The anti-Libyan campaign was exacerbated in the extreme, following two incidents involving terrorist attacks on American passengers in the Rome and Vienna airports last December. Having ascribed responsibility for these acts to a Palestinian group which, according to Washington's allegations, supposedly enjoys Al-Qadhdhafi's patronage, Washington began to step up its punitive measures.

As is known, these measures included harsh economic sanctions against Libya. It already was whispered at that time that armed operations were in the offing, while U.S. warships continuously and threateningly loomed off the Libyan coastline.

However, at no time was such a huge force deployed off that coast as during the so-called exercises which began last Sunday. Three aircraft carriers, 240 aircraft-based planes and, approximately 40 warships in all. And the pretext? It was to assert the right to freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Sidra which the Americans regard as international waters and which the Libyans declared to be their territorial waters, south of the 32'30" northern latitude line. Freedom of navigation is the pretext here, but the aim is to provoke an armed conflict, to demonstrate U.S. strength, to punish Libya.

Ever since these exercises began, U.S. aircraft have violated Libya's airspace. The Libyans fired anti-aircraft missiles in response. Even though, according to U.S. data, they failed to hit their target, this act of self-defense was interpreted as evidence of hostile intent. The Americans hit an anti-aircraft defense base near the town of Surt. Such was the course of the development of events. Several Libyan warships, allegedly on the move toward the U.S. armada, also came to be suspected of hostile intent. They too, were destroyed by missiles, although they did not manage to confirm their so-called hostile intent by hostile action.

All in all, it is piracy, being portrayed as a preemptive strike. These provocative exercises in the Gulf of Sidra came to an end on Thursday, 27 March.

U.S. Aims To 'Frighten' Libya

LD301441 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Yuriy Soltan commentary]

[Excerpts] Last week the world was witness to the United States' armed attack on Libya. No matter how Washington tried to justify the need for what it calls a surgical operation, this does not change the essence of the matter. An act of open and armed aggression was carried out against that independent state, an aggression thoroughly prepared and planned in advance. The decision is known to have been adopted in principle at a secret meeting of Washington administration leaders back in July last year. Only a pretext was searched and a suitable moment was waited for. At the weekend American ships moved away from Libyan shores, but the threat of a repeated attack against that country remains.

What has Libya done to displease the United States? Washington keeps no secret of the fact that for a long time now it has been detesting Libya's independent and anti-imperialist policy and its active participation in the struggle against United States and Israeli aggressive schemes in the Middle East. So, it decided to teach Libya a lesson, and conduct a punitive operation against it. Washington clearly hopes to frighten not only Libya but other developing nonaligned nations unwilling to accept the terms America dictates. This is how the doctrine of neoglobalism devised in the United States is being put into practice.

The essence of the doctrine is to resort to any means, military means included, to force independent nations to build their life on instructions from Washington.

The United States' attack on Libya is a challenge to the world public and a trampling upon universally accepted civilized relations. Such a policy provokes regional conflicts and puts international peace and security at risk.

'Anti-Libyan policy' Viewed

GF301940 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1600 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Yuriy Soltan commentary: "The Anti-Libyan Policy of the United States"]

[Text] During the past week, the world witnessed a U.S. military attack on Libya. Whatever excuse the people in Washington may give for this so-called surgical operation, it cannot change its true nature. This was open armed aggression against an independent nation. It was planned and predetermined. As is now known, the idea was accepted in principle last January in a secret conference among U.S. officials. They were waiting only for an excuse and an opportunity. Finally, on 14 March, as [word indistinct] of the United States report, a plan called [words indistinct] was adopted. Under this operation, aircraft from U.S. aircraft carriers, which had cruised near the Libyan coast, attacked the Libyan city of Surt with bombs and missiles and fired at Libyan patrol boats. Later, the U.S. ships moved away from the Libyan coast. But the threat of a repeated attack against this country remains.

Why is the United States against Libyan policies? The people in Washington do not conceal the fact that they do not like Libya's independent and anti-imperialist policy and its active participation in the struggle, which they have been unable to stop, against the aggressive designs of the United States and Israel in the Middle East. Thus, they decided to teach Libya a lesson and to punish it. In fact, people in Washington are of the opinion that not only Libya but other countries which are progressive and nonaligned and which are not ready to bow to U.S. orders also should be overawed. It is in this regard the U.S. policy of neoglobalism is being implemented. According to the nature of this doctrine, independent countries should be made to conform to orders from Washington through all means, including military. The U.S. attack on Libya amounts to confrontation with the world and tramples upon the recognized norms of relations governing civilized countries. Such a policy generates regional tensions and clashes and threatens world peace.

Murphy 'Threatens' New Exercises

LD310901 Moscow TASS in English 0855 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] London March 31 TASS -- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy has come forward with new threats to Libya. The REUTER news agency has reported that he said the United States may hold future naval manoeuvres in the Gulf of Sidra.

In an interview on U.S. television, he insisted on a certain "right" of the USA to interfere in Libya's internal policy if the leadership of that state continues to pursue the course aimed at achieving genuine independence.

REAGAN RADIO ADDRESS SHOWS NEOGLOBALISM

LD301719 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1337 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Washington, 30 Mar (TASS) -- The U.S. Administration is persisting in carrying out its imperialist "neoglobalism" policy, pretending to some "right" to continue its piratical acts against sovereign states and peoples. As is evident from the regular radio address by the U.S. President, Nicaragua and Libya have now been chosen as the main targets for the interventionist policy.

R. Reagan attempted to portray the U.S. naval armada's aggressive actions, carried out during provocative maneuvers off the shores of Libya, as some act of "self-defense." "The U.S. ships and aircraft were fired on by the forces of the North African country, Libya," he asserted. He also resorted to obvious misrepresentation and distortion of facts in describing the situation in Central America. He portrayed the little republic of Nicaragua, which is the victim of an undeclared war being waged by the CIA and the Pentagon with the help of gangs of Somozists, as a source of aggression against neighboring countries.

The President's words about U.S. might being "an unquenchable symbol of hope for the oppressed peoples of the whole world" which could "quickly be embodied into democratic movements," truly did sound like a wicked mockery of common sense. The President could find nothing better to cite as an example of such an "embodiment" than Grenada -- the small Caribbean state, whose freedom and independence were mercilessly trampled under the boot of the U.S. military as a result of U.S. aggression in October 1983. The President classified the U.S. bandit actions against Libya and other such actions as fostering "a strengthening of peace and freedom."

U.S. NICARAGUAN POLICY TRAMPLES INTERNATIONAL LAW

LD290334 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Igor Geyevskiy commentary from the "Outlook" program]

[Text] [Announcer] On Thursday the United States Senate has voted for $100 million worth of aid to the Nicaraguan contras upon whom Washington relies in its bid to topple the lawful government of Nicaragua. The bill was passed by a slight majority and will now return to the House which previously rejected it. Here is a commentary by Dr Igor Geyevskiy.

The most interesting thing is that in its campaign for the aid package to the contras the White House has not appealed a single time to the UN Charter, the Charter of the Organization of American States, or any other fundamental document of international law. It has failed to do so for the simple reason that, in its policy toward Nicaragua, the U.S. Administration has trampled upon the norms of international law. In keeping with Article 1 of the UN Charter, all nations must promote friendly ties with each other. The UN Charter proclaims as a supreme principle the sovereign equality of all nations and noninterference in their internal affairs. Article 4 of the UN Charter covers the territorial integrity and political independence of all nations. Now the White House has openly proclaimed it a goal of its foreign policy to topple the government of Nicaragua, a nation that, just as the United States, is a member of the United Nations, and with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations.

It's really hard to recall a precedent in recent history of the government of one nation officially proclaiming its intention to topple the government of another.

Officials of the present U.S. Administration are fond of talking about its commitment to human rights and the values of civilization. But how can that commitment be proved other than by abiding by the UN Charter and the fundamentals of international law? That's exactly what is missing in Washington's policy toward Nicaragua. The mining of Nicaraguan harbors and the use of mercenaries to topple a government elected by the people has nothing to do with the values of civilization; it's rather like the law of the jungle. What if some hypothetical government declared that it is out to topple the U.S. Administration at any cost and allocated money to arm mercenaries and send them to the United States? What would Washington's reaction be? Naturally, it would describe the action as terrorism and a violation of the UN Charter. Why then is the American Administration following that kind of policy toward Nicaragua?

ZAGLADIN, LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONS RECEIVE FASCELL

LD281731 Moscow TASS in English 1629 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- A meeting with Dante Fascell, chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee was held at the Commissions for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Sumpreme Soviet in Moscow today.

The sides declared the wish of the legislative bodies of the two countries to make a contribution to bettering Soviet-American relations. In that connection the attention of the American guest was drawn to the fact that the USSR's wish to maintain normal stable relations with the USA on the basis of equality and equal security and non-interference in each other's internal affairs was explicitly expressed at the 27th Congress of the CPSU and was mirrored in the congress documents.

It was pointed out that even with a divergence of attitudes to a number of issues, a continuing dialogue at the parliamentary level, and in particular, this visit are useful because it makes possible to find out the stands of the sides and thus contribute to a better mutual understanding. This is important not only for Soviet-American relations, but also for the cause of peace the world over.

The meeting was attended by Vadim Zagladin, secretary of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and other officials. A luncheon was given in honour of the guest on behalf of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

PRAVDA REPORTS SHEVARDNADZE-KIM YONG-NAM TALKS

PM281655 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading: "Talks Heads"]

[Text] On 26 March E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, met with Kim Yong-nam, member of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee Politburo, deputy premier of the DPRK Administrative Council, and DPRK foreign minister, who made a brief stopover in Moscow on his return home from a tour of African countries.

During the talk there was an exchange of information on topical questions of the domestic and foreign policies of the USSR and DPRK.

E.A. Shevardnadze familiarized Kim Yong-nam with the priority measures to fulfill the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, paying special attention to the tasks of implementing the program to eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of the century and promote the concept of all-embracing international security which is formulated in the CPSU Central Committee Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress delivered by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Kim Yong-nam noted that the DPRK leadership assesses highly the results of the 27th CPSU Congress and the policy documents it adopted, stated the full support of the Communists and all working people of the republic for the Soviet program of struggle to eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons and create an all-embracing system of international security, and wished the Soviet people success in implementing the tasks set by the congress. The DPRK foreign minister described the key problems of the DPRK's foreign policy which is aimed at ensuring favorable international conditions for the successful building of socialism in North Korea and the implementation of the country's independent, peaceful unification on the basis of democratic principles.

In discussing questions of Soviet-Korean relations mutual satisfaction was expressed at their steady forward development on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism and the provisions of the 6 July 1961 treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual aid between the USSR and the DPRK.

E.A. Shevardnadze stressed that the Soviet Union will consistently continue to steer a course toward the all-around consolidation and development of cooperation with the DPRK and toward support for the efforts and initiatives aimed at easing the military and political tension on the Korean peninsula, consolidating peace in Korea, and achieving the country's peaceful unification.

There was also a discussion of the course of the implementation of the accords reached during the official friendly visit paid to the DPRK by the USSR foreign minister in January this year, including on questions concerning collaboration between the USSR and the DPRK in the international arena in the interests of safeguarding peace and security in Asia and throughout the world.

The talk took place in a warm, comradely atmosphere.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: AIMS OF MEESE PAKISTAN TRIP VIEWED

PM271458 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[S. Bulantsev "Rejoinder": "The Washington 'Pilgrim'"]

[Text] This itinerary has become so customary for certain categories of high-ranking foreign visitors to Pakistan that it is now possible to bet with some confidence that anyone who nurtures wild dreams of drowning the Afghan revolution in blood will invariably go to Peshawar and the Khyber Pass. In recent years this region has become a kind of "Mecca" for "pilgrims" from America, Europe, and Asia who share a common hatred for the people's system in the DRA. It is said that many of them, when they get there feel like some latter-day Alexander the Great, whose hordes once went through the pass. The only difference is that the Greek general was heading toward India, whereas the present day conquerors are waging an undeclared war on Afghanistan.

The "pilgrims'" well-trodden path is now being followed by U.S. Attorney General E. Meese, who this week will visit the dushman gangs entrenched in the Pershawar area. The attorney is carrying out President R. Reagsn's personal assignment -- to convey his greetings to the "freedom fighters," as they motley Afghan counterrevolutionary rabble is pompously called in Washington and certain other capital cities.

You do not have to guess at what the President's message represents. Its content may be judged from the recent inflammatory proclamation in which the White House boss declared 21 March to be "Afghanistan Day." The fabrications regarding the situation in Afghanistan alternate with slanderous anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet attacks. As an Afghan Foreign Ministry statement rightly notes in this connection, R. Reagan, who talks a lot about his love of peace and humanism, is encouraging the bandits to commit more crimes against the people's system in Afghanistan and against the country's civilian population. The maintenance of tension around Afghanistan suits the White House, since it fully accords with the goals of America's neoglobalist policy.

Judging by reports in the international press, the U.S. attorney general's trip to the dushman camps marks a qualitatively new stage in Washington's war against the DRA people. It is common knowledge that in the years since the April Revolution the bandits have received more than $1.5 billion from the United States. This year alone U.S. aid to the murderers will amount to $470 million. However, now the White House is not content with that and has instructed E. Meese to make direct contact with the Afghan people's enemies and lift their much shaken morale.

The "pilgrim" chosen by the White House to transmit the President's personal message to the dushmans is himself worthy of note. Just who is Edwin Meese? Right now he is attorney general, but in the past he was a professional soldier. Quite recently he was working in the intelligence section of the U.S. Army reserve. However, he only rose to lieutenant colonel and, consumed with longing for a military career that never was, he "elevated" himself, as the ubiquitous U.S. reporters assert. Now he finds himself in a strange position: On the one hand, as attorney general he has to defend law and order, while on the other he has become an ally and mentor of terrorists.

E. Meese's "pilgrimage" to Peshawar is Washington's latest provocative action aimed at starting up a new round of aggression against the DRA and galvanizing the political corpses of the renegades spurned by the Afghan people. Such futile attempts have been going on for almost 8 years now. And throughout those years, the DRA people have been increasingly confidently following the path of building a new life which was begun by the April Revolution.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SHULTZ MEETINGS

Comment on Turkey Visit

LD282146 Moscow in Turkish to Turkey 1400 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey Rejects the U.S. Diktat"]

[Text] The visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Turkey is over. According to the AP correspondent in Ankara, the Reagan administration was pursuing the goal of extracting the maximum military and political concessions from Turkey through this visit. U.S. mass information media make no secret that Shultz' visit to Ankara was not crowned with success. The agenda of Shultz's talks in Ankara was rather crowded. The U.S. secretary of state was hoping, in the first place, to achieve progress in U.S.-Turkish talks on extending the defense and economic cooperation agreement, which expired last December. In the second place, the subject of the reconstruction of military bases on Turkish territory and the establishment of new ones was taken up within the framework of the aforementioned agreement. The reference in this case is to the military bases in eastern Anatolia, that is the region close to the Soviet border. In addition, the Americans were intent on imposing the proposal concerning the use of these bases by the Rapid Deployment Forces, forces for expansion. And, as if this were not enough, the United States was insisting on Turkish support for U.S. activities in the Middle East.

As one can see, the U.S. secretary of state had extensive plans. Nevertheless, as THE WASHINGTON TIMES correspondent writes, Shultz left Ankara with empty hands. The problem is that Turkey asked the United States to ensure favorable conditions for the development of the Turkish economy and the broadening of the Turkish economy in bilateral trade. This is a request to which the Americans have long turned a deaf ear. In our view, there is another factor to which increasingly more attention is being paid in Turkey. The reference is to the reaction to the Pentagon's attempts to expand, through Turkey, NATO's area of influence in the Near and Middle East -- and the war TERCUMAN puts it -- to transform Turkey into an area of operations for the U.S. imperialists for mounting military [word indistinct] against neighboring countries.

It appears from reports in the press that the Turks are well aware that this not only undermines the standing of both countries in the international arena but also threatens the national security of the country. This was one of the topics discussed at a meeting of former Turkish ministers from various periods, as well as public and political figures, held in Ankara on the eve of the Shultz visit. The movement for relaxing international tension and for improving the international situation has been forging ahead with growing activeness of late. The arguments advanced by the partisans for increasing the U.S. and NATO military presence on the territory of other countries are being rejected by public opinion and even the ruling circles of these countries. In view of these circumstances, the U.S. leadership is resorting to various provocations to scare Turkey with a nonexistent threat, that is to say the Soviet threat, and thus to justify its militarist claims. In this connection, U.S. political commentators are pointing out that the provocative act committed by U.S. naval vessels in the Black Sea, along the southern coast of the Crimea, on the eve of the visit to Ankara of the U.S. Secretary of state is no coincidence. A NEW YORK TIMES commentator poses the following question: Could it be that Shultz wanted to pass on the secret information gathered by U.S. vessels on the so-called Soviet threat to Turkey at the Ankara talks?

It seems that Washingtonians are unable to abandon their shopworn imperial pretences. Threats of use of force, shows of military might, and provocations organized in the vicinity of the borders of others derive from this.

Odd as it may seem, all such acts often coincide with the visits of high-ranking U.S. officials to various regions -- including Latin America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean region where the United States has committed an overt act of aggression against Libya -- and are perpetrated on the eve of such visits. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' visit to Ankara has, in this sense, not been an exception.

Anti-U.S. Feeling in Italy

LD281240 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Rome March 28 TASS -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived here today for a brief visit in a tour of Western Europe. He will meet with the Italian president, the chairman of the Council of Ministers and the ministers of foreign affairs and defence. The emissary of the White House will be received in the Vatican by John Paul the Second. The local press points out that Shultz will try to persuade Italy to endorse the U.S. course towards stepping up confrontation, in the Mediterranean, in particular, and to join the Pentagon's "star wars" plans. The visit of the U.S. secretary of state begins at a time when a wave of vigorous anti-war and anti-American demonstrations is sweeping the Italian peninsula. The foreign-policy goal and actions of the present U.S. Administration give rise to mounting discontent and resistance in Western Europe.

Discusses Libyan Actions

LD291941 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Rome March 29 TASS -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who is visiting in Italy within the framework of a tour of West European countries has made hostile attacks against Libya. Speaking at a press conference here, he unfoundedly accused the Libyan leadership of allegedly sheltering, training, fitting out and encouraging terrorists. In so doing he in every way tried to justify the glaring act of state terrorism by the U.S. military -- the piratic attack by U.S. ships and aircraft on a number of Libyan facilities.

According to the U.S. secretary of state, questions connected with the U.S. large-scale show of military might near Libyan shores occupied the central place during his talks with President Francesco Cossiga of Italy, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. He had to admit the existence of differences in the stands on this matter between the USA and Italy which maintains close mutually beneficial economic contacts with Libya and which has condemned Washington's anti-Libyan actions. Although Shultz tried to belittle the importance of the differences, he, as the REUTER news agency points out with reference to U.S. officials, privately more and more frankly expresses exasperation at the Italian Government's stand on this matter.

COMMENTARY ON WEST'S DESIRE IN ANTONOV CASE

LD291239 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS -- By TASS political analyst Vladimir Goncharov. A Rome court today acquitted Sergei Antonov and two other Bulgarian nationals on charges of complicity in the attempt on the pope's life as there was insufficient evidence for a conviction. That there would be no evidence had been known to unbiased observers from the start of the frame-up "case".

It was known all along that Ali Agca, Turkish neo-fascist and killer, was a liar, that, in slandering Antonov, he acted on instructions of special services, hoping for a pardon. His "testimony", the sole source of the charges brought against the Bulgarian nationals, was false through and through.

So, Antonov is innocent. But a legitimate question arises in this connection: Who is guilty of keeping the innocent person under arrest for the long three years, subjecting him to physical and mental suffering? Undoubtedly, the guilt is above all with Western special services, their agents. The guilt is with professional liars with journalist cards -- Claire Sterling, Michael Ledin, Paul Henze...Italian investigating judge Ilario Martella also played a no small part in that. The true intention of those who sought to sling mud at Antonov and his compatriots was to slander Bulgaria and other socialist countries, sow discord between communists and Catholics involved in the campaign for social progress and peace, hamper the efforts to ease world tension, revive the "cold war" and divert attention from the U.S. policy of state terrorism in the Mediterranean, in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

The end of the "Antonov case" spells the failure of the Central Intelligence Agency and other organizers of the major anti-socialist provocation in recent years. It must be mentioned that instead of passing a full acquittal, the court used the "insufficient evidence" wording. That is, undoubtedly, a compromise between the truth and the aspiration to whitewash somehow those who masterminded the "case." This wording does not satisfy millions of people around the world who followed with anxiety the dramatic plight of the Bulgarian national, who campaigned for his release. They believe that Antonov should be fully acquitted and that the Italian judiciary should offer their apology to the victim of arbitrariness and violence.

SPANISH BUSINESSMEN DISCUSS TIES WITH OFFICIALS

LD260803 Moscow TASS in English 1854 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS -- Jose Maria Cuevas, president of the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organisations, declared for the widening of commercial and economic cooperation between Spain and the Soviet Union. He spoke here today at a meeting of a delegation of Spanish businessmen he heads with the leadership of the Soviet Union's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Noting the constant growth of the volume of Spanish-Soviet trade turnover, Jose Maria Cuevas said that, in the opinion of Spanish businessmen, there exist vast opportunities for the widening of the list of mutual deliveries and use of new forms of commercial and economic ties between Spain and the USSR. He emphasised the role that the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organisations and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the USSR can play in the development of business contacts between Spanish firms and Soviet foreign trade associations. For this purpose the two organisations intend to sign an agreement on cooperation which will determine the measures called upon to step up commercial and economic cooperation between Spain and the USSR.

On the same day the delegation of Spanish business circles had meetings with chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev and USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Aleksey Manzhulo. During the stay in Moscow the Spanish businessmen will hold negotiations at a number of Soviet ministries and foreign trade associations.

Visit Arkhipov

LD261313 Moscow TASS in English 1305 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Ivan Arkhipov today received a group of representatives of the Spanish confederation of business organisations, led by Jose Maria Cuevas. They had a talk on further development of trade and economic relations between the USSR and Spain. Ambassador of Spain in the USSR Jose Luis Xifra de Ocerin took part in the talk.

SUB-SAHARAN AFFAIRS

GROMYKO, SHEVARDNADZE GREET MOZAMBIQUE'S MACHEL ON ARRIVAL

LD301430 Moscow TASS in English 1419 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS -- Samora Moises Machel, chairman of the Frelimo Party, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, arrived in Moscow today for a working friendly visit at the invitation of the Soviet leadership. He is accompanied by his wife.

At the airport the leader of the friendly country and his wife were greeted by Andrey Gromyko, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., and his wife, Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., and Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Ryzhkov, Machel Hold Talks

LD310704 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0650 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 31 Mar (TASS) -- A discussion between Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, took place in the Kremlin today.

The Mozambican leader arrived in Moscow on Sunday on the invitation of the Soviet leadership for a friendly working visit.

U.S. CLAIMS ON NICARAGUA 'INVASION' VIEWED

PM281201 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 86 First Edition p 5

[Vladimir Bolshakov "Commentator's Column": "Casualties Again"]

[Text] The United States is fueling the hysteria surrounding Nicaragua increasingly fiercely. In the past few days, Washington has urgently earmarked $20 million in aid to Honduras and instructed the U.S. Air Force to help to transport Honduran troops to the Nicaraguan border.

In an attempt to at least somehow justify these blatantly provocative actions, Washington has announced that Nicaraguan troops allegedly crossed the border with Honduras on 22 March and invaded its territory to a depth of over 15 km to destroy the rear bases of the detachments of "contras" entrenched there. An attempt is being made to create the impression among the U.S. people and entire world public that "the Sandinists have deliberately challenged the United States" after the U.S. House of Representatives refused to allocate the $100 million requested by the White House for military and other aid to the gangs of former Somozists under the patronage of the CIA and the Pentagon.

These gangs have now suffered heavy losses. The CIA scenario providing for the overthrow of the Sandinists at the hands of the "contras" is obviously not working. All Nicaragua has risen up to fight them. Under these conditions the White House wants to prove that the refusal of aid to the "contras" in the House of Representatives was a mistake. The administration is trying to wreak revenge in the Senate, which is discussing a bill for rendering aid to the "contras." Obviously playing into the hands of the White House, the CIA readily provided "information on Nicaraguan aggression."

This "information" is flimsy. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has resolutely denied Washington's phony assertions of the invasion of Honduran territory. In their reports from the border between Honduras and Nicaragua, U.S. television companies also confirm that no signs of an "invasion" are to be seen there.

But Washington does not bother with facts. It is pursuing its own line, formulated by the White House: "The cancerous growth called Nicaragua must be removed." Neither more nor less! Honduras has been urgently given additional military aid. U.S. troops which have long been waiting there for the order to invade Nicaragua have been put on heightened combat alert. General J. Galvin, commander of the U.S. southern command, has arrived in Honduras to lead the new act of provocation.

It is clear that all this provocative ballyhoo has not been launched accidentally. It cannot be ruled out that it envisages at subsequent stages the direct use, on some pretext or other, of U.S. Armed Forces in accordance with the Grenadian or Libyan "scenarios." The danger of this adventure is obvious. But Washington should understand that Nicaragua is not defenseless Grenada. Its people are fully determined to defend their freedom. And in this all honest people of the world are in solidarity with Nicaragua. And it is time that the over-zealous gentlemen from Washington heeded the voice of the world community: "Hands off Nicaragua!"

Nicaraguan Statement Cited

LD271005 Moscow TASS in English 2255 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Managua March 26 TASS -- The Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has categorically refuted Washington's mendacious accusations that the Sandinista People's Army allegedly "invaded" the territory of Honduras. The ministry's statement circulated in Managua emphasises that U.S. propaganda's latest falsehood is part and parcel of the slanderous anti-Nicaraguan campaign which the Reagan administration has launched in an attempt to get congressional approval of new multimillion appropriations for the Somozista forces based in Honduras.

TASS Cites Ortega

LD290954 Moscow TASS in English 0926 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Managua March 29 TASS -- The Reagan administration is on the path of "Vietnamizing" the conflict in Central America, Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and president of Nicaragua, told a news conference here Friday.

He lashed out at the adventurist policy of the United States which has gone as far as to directly involve U.S. servicemen based in Honduras in providing support to the C.I.A.'s mercenary gangs in their aggressive actions against Nicaragua.

U.S. military transport planes manned by U.S. pilots, Ortega said, were used to airlift Honduran troops to the border with Nicaragua where there was fighting between units of the Sandinist Popular Army and Somozist groups. The military operation undertaken by the Pentagon in an attempt to save the mercenaries from a final defeat was supervised by John Galvin, chief of the U.S. southern command.

The escalating U.S. military interference in Nicaragua's affair, Ortega said, is exacerbating the dangerous situation in the region. The Nicaraguan president added that the U.S. Government bears the full weight of responsibility for the consequences of its adventurist actions, including the possible death of U.S. troops in the combat zone. Once they pentrate into Nicaraguan air space, he warned, U.S. military helicopters risk being shot down.

Flatly denying White House charges that the Sandinist Popular Army "has attacked Honduras", the Nicaraguan leader called President Reagan "the biggest lie-manufacturer in the world". It is not Nicaragua but the United States that is flouting international law as it encroaches upon the independence and territorial integrity of Nicaragua, Ortega said.

The Reagan administration has raised a counter-revolutionary mercenary army which is occupying part of the territory of Honduras in violation of the latter's sovereignty and staging raids against Nicaragua from bases there, he said.

The C.I.A. hired terrorists are killing Nicaraguan citizens and destroying everything that has been created by the revolution for the people. In these conditions, the Nicaraguan president said, his country has the full right to armed defense against aggression and will continue exercising it. Washington's mendacious claims, he said, are disproved even by the fact that Nicaraguan troops have not had any armed clashes with the Honduran Army. In the reported fighting troops of the Sandinist Popular Army carried out a successful operation against the C.I.A.'s mercenaries and overran their camps, including their main training center. Nicaragua thinks highly of the fact that Honduran authorities have not yielded to pressure from the United States eager to provoke an armed conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua, Ortega said. He said the Nicaraguan Government has sent a message to the Contadora Group countries, pointing to the threatening situation in the wake of the stepup in U.S. aggression against the Nicaraguan people and suggesting that a mixed commission be formed to monitor the situation on the border between Nicaragua and Honduras.

The Nicaraguan president denounced the U.S. Senate's decision to meet a White House request for 100 million dollars in military aid for the "contras".

The multimillion-dollar appropriations and "instruction" by U.S. military "advisers", he said, will not save the mercenaries from a crushing defeat. But the very fact of U.S. Congress deliberating the "ways and means" of suppressing the Sandinist popular revolution represents an attempt to scrap the existing jungle. U.S. aggression against Nicaragua, just as infringments of the sovereignty of Libya, are a threat to the security of all mankind, the Nicaraguan president said.

Paper Views Situation

PM271159 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Mar 86 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "White House Provocation"]

[Excerpt] Washington, 26 Mar -- The U.S. Administration has taken a new step with the aim of whipping up the situation in Central America. President Reagan has claimed that the Sandinist People's Army has "invaded" Honduran territory. On this pretext he announced the granting of "emergency military aid" to Honduras to the tune of $20 million,

At the same time, as the news agencies report, the Honduran Government initially refuted the statement about an "act of aggression" supposedly perpetrated by Nicaragua. Only later, clearly on Washington's prompting, did it acknowledge the "instance of attack." According to reports from Honduras, that country's authorities have given the order to place their troops on the Nicaraguan border in a state of enhanced combat readiness. It is also noted that John Galvin, commander of the U.S. southern command, has arrived there hurriedly.

KATUSHEV, CUBA'S MENDELEZ DISCUSS COOPERATION

PM241242 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general headline "Talks Held"]

[Text] A meeting was held on 21 March between K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and E. Melendez, first vice president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation. A wide range of questions involving Soviet-Cuban economic and technical cooperation was examined.